

REBECCA PILGRIM GOATES.

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Rebecca Pilgrim Goates, daughter of Samuel Pilgrim and Betsy Coote, was born at William Read's Farm, Madingly Road, Jiles Parish, Cambridge, England, January 1, 1826.

When she was sixteen years of age her father died, leaving her mother with eight children. Being the oldest girl, she aided very materially in supporting the family.

In 1853 she joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This brought upon her much opposition from her family and friends, but she was undaunted and fearless in her convictions and though persecuted and scorned, she remained faithful and true.

In 1856 on the fourth day of May, she left her native home and friends and emigrated to Utah, sailing on the ship "Thornton" with a company in care of Elder Levi Savage, arriving at New York June 14, 1856. She joined Captain James G. Willie's hand cart company, numbering about five hundred, which left Iowa City July 15, 1856, with 120 hand carts and six wagons. She pulled a hand cart 1,400 miles through valleys and over the plains and mountains.

The terrible privations of her company and the sufferings they endured during the trip are a matter of record. A recital of the sad story of the hand cart company disaster always filled her heart with pride and thanksgiving at the thoughts that she had passed through such hardships for the cause which she embraced and loved so much.

She arrived at Salt Lake City, November 9, 1856, after great suffering from scarcity of provisions, cold, and over exertion in the mountains, many of the company having perished during the trip.

She remained in Salt Lake City about one week and then came to Lehi. In April, 1857, she married William Goates. The remainder of her life was lovingly devoted to assisting him in all he undertook to do. She took the place of a mother and cared for his motherless children; she was devoted and faithful, and although she never became a mother, she was indeed a mother to the motherless. She was kind, sympathetic and generous, always ready to aid those in need, and was ever busy looking after the welfare of others.

She possessed a remarkably strong constitution, which took considerable time to wear away, but was finally called to a well earned rest, after having been confined to her bed two weeks, suffering of general debility. She passed peacefully to the Great Beyond, at 12:30 a. m., April 18, 1909. Her honored career was closed in full faith and fellowship in the cause for which she so long had suffered, at the age of 83 .years, 3 months, and 17 days.